



BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Vol. 2, No. 26

March 3, 2000

"I have not yet begun to fight!"



MARINES, AIR FORCE HELP IN MOZAMBIQUE

By Jon R. Anderson

The United States is preparing to send Marines under an Air Force-led task force into the troubled flood zones of Mozambique.

One Air Force C-17, flown from Ramstein Air Base in Germany, arrived in Mozambique packed with 52,000 pounds of humanitarian aid, including 30,000 gallons of water and 2,400 blankets. A C-5 from Dover Air Force Base, Del. brought 90,000 pounds of medical supplies.

Which Marine Expeditionary Unit will respond to the crisis? The 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit, now in the Mediterranean, is scheduled to end its six-month deployment. The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit, aboard the three-ship Wasp Amphibious Ready Group, is now on its way to relieve them and is a good candidate.

However, the Camp Pendleton based 15th MEU aboard the three-ship Bonhomme Richard Amphibious Ready Group could be tasked with the mission instead. Because the 24th MEU currently is scheduled to participate in a high-profile exercise in Kosovo next month, said one senior official in the Pentagon, the 15th MEU is the more likely option.

The severe flooding began in the first week of February and worsened considerably last week. So far, thousands of people are feared dead and thousands more are trapped in trees, on rooftops or in waist-deep water after weeks of rain. The World Health Organization estimates at least 800,000 survivors could contract water-borne diseases such as cholera, malaria and meningitis.

NAVY F 14 DUMPS FUEL ON NEIGHBORHOOD

By Jack Dorsey, The Virginian-Pilot

A Navy F 14 fighter crew dumped 1,000 pounds of fuel which fell on a neighborhood near Fentress Auxiliary Air Field earlier this month, the commanding officer of Oceana Naval Air Station said.

"It was deliberate," Capt. William C. "Skip" Zobel said, saying it was done to lighten the plane's load for a maneuver and that he has given notice to everyone that such actions won't be tolerated again.

"We have to be at a certain landing weight to do the (touch and go) bounces. The pilot came around too low, looked outside, and said, 'Oh it's dark down here. I need to squirt out about 1,000 pounds.' He pulled the dump switch and dumped about 150 gallons of fuel.

Dumping fuel is not permitted over land or below 6,000 feet unless there is an extreme emergency.

CAMPAIGN 2000

BUSH WINS IN VIRGINIA, N. DAKOTA

By Richard L. Berke

Gov. George W. Bush won forceful victories over Sen. John McCain in Virginia and North Dakota Tuesday, picking up a large cache of delegates as well as a considerable morale boost after his discouraging loss in Michigan a week ago.

Bush characterized his victory as a repudiation of McCain's drive to paint him as a captive of the religious right. "This campaign is winning and we're doing it the right way," he said. "We are uniting our party without compromising principle."

McCain suggested that Bush had only regional appeal. "It seems as if he has a Southern strategy," he said. "We'll look forward to Super Tuesday when we have a broad section, a cross-section of America voting all on that same day."

In the Democratic campaign, Vice President Al Gore beat Bill Bradley in the state of Washington in a primary that yielded no delegates.

BONHOMME RICHARD'S ALMANAC

Capt. Douglas W. Keith, Commanding Officer

Lt. Cmdr. Laurie Rye, Public Affairs Officer

JOC(SW/AW) Stephen K. Robinson, Asst. Public Affairs Officer

J01(SW) Robert W. Gannard, Editor

J03 Laura C. Wiggins, Staff Writer

L11 Jimmie Claspell, Print Shop

This newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the military services stationed at sea and their families. Its contents do not necessarily reflect the official views of the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or the U.S. Navy and do not imply endorsement thereof.

STOCK MARKET

STELLAR MONTH FOR NASDAQ

By Kenneth N. Gilpin

Stock prices staged an advance in heavy trading. Demand for technology stocks was intense. Led by networking and computer-related stocks, the Nasdaq jumped 118.84 points, or 2.6 percent, to 4,696.69. The gain capped an amazing month for the index: in February, the Nasdaq rose more than 19 percent. For the year, the index is up 15.4 percent. The gains were not limited to stocks listed on the Nasdaq. For a second straight session blue chip stocks moved higher. The Dow Jones industrial average, helped by big gains in Hewlett-Packard, AT&T and General Electric, rose 89.66 points, or 0.9 percent, to 10,128.31. The Standard & Poor's 500 stock index rose 18.37, or 1.4 percent, to 1,366.42, led by big gains in Texas Instruments, Motorola and Oracle.

FRIDAY'S SITE TV SCHEDULE

CHANNEL 2

1030 BOY MEETS WORLD

1100 PREDATOR

1630 AIR COMBAT

1730 JEOPARDY

1800 STAR TREK: DEEP SPACE NINE

1900 LAW & ORDER

2000 STEP MOM

2200 BLACK DOG

CHANNEL 6

1030 THAT 70'S SHOW

1100 COOL RUNNINGS

1630 A BUG'S LIFE

1800 OTHER PEOPLE'S MONEY

2000 EVENT HORIZON

2200 A FEW GOOD MEN

TV SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO OPERATIONAL COMMITMENTS.

N A T I O N A L / I N T E R N A T I O N A L N E W S

CHINA DISMISSES FUROR OVER ITS TAIWAN POLICY

By Elisabeth Rosenthal, The New York Times

A new Chinese policy paper on Taiwan, which has prompted a furious reaction in the United States, merely "reiterates the government's consistent stance" and does not represent a change in policy, a senior Chinese official said today.

"Some foreign media have regarded China as making a major change to its policy on solving the Taiwan issue," state television quoted Deputy Prime Minister Qian Qichen as saying. "This view is incorrect."

A "white paper" issued last week by the State Council, China's cabinet, declared that China would be forced to take "all drastic measures," including military force, under three conditions: if Taiwan declared independence, if it were invaded by foreign troops or if Taiwan's government refused "indefinitely" to make progress on the reunification of Taiwan with the mainland.

The third condition had long been implicit in China's policy toward Taiwan, which it views as a

breakaway province, but it had never been so clearly stated.

With Taiwan's presidential election just a few weeks away, the stark inclusion of this third condition in the document was interpreted in Taiwan and by many Western politicians as a new direct military threat.

In Washington, members of the Administration and Congress were caught off guard by the policy paper, and many reacted swiftly and harshly.

Meanwhile, this week, Adm. Dennis Blair, commander of United States forces in the Pacific, was in Beijing for a previously scheduled visit with Defense Minister Chi Haotian and top Chinese military officials. Mr. Chi told Admiral Blair that China would "never commit not to use force," the New China News Agency reported.

He also stressed that Beijing was "committed to peaceful reunification with Taiwan."

BOY COMES FROM TROUBLED HOME

By Associated Press

The 6-year-old boy, who killed a fellow first-grader, used a stolen handgun he apparently discovered loaded and lying in a bedroom of the house where he was living.

Genesee County Prosecutor Arthur Busch said the house where the boy and his mother and brother were staying with an uncle was frequented by strangers, and the boy's jailed father said people there traded crack for guns. The uncle, Sirmarcus B. Winfrey, was arrested on an outstanding warrant and was to be questioned, police said.

RUSSIAN FLAG FLIES IN CHECHNYA

By Daniel Williams, Washington Post Foreign Service

Troops hoisted the Russian flag over the last rebel-controlled town in Chechnya today and officials all but declared the main objectives of the bitter and destructive six-month war accomplished.

Russian tanks and armored vehicles rolled into the mountain settlement of Shatoi after bombarding it for several days with artillery and rockets, Russian officials said, scattering rebels into the snowy peaks beyond. The bulk of the army will now pull out.

SPORTS

SPURS SEND HEAT TO NEW LOW

By Associated Press

David Robinson scored 19 points as the San Antonio Spurs took control early and cruised to a 93-69 victory over Miami on Tuesday night, holding the Heat to a season-low point total.

Other NBA scores:

Philadelphia 106	Dallas 87
Indiana 115	Detroit 105
Toronto 87	Chicago 80
Orlando 103	Seattle 94
Phoenix 100	Cleveland 93
Charlotte 92	Minnesota 87

ST. JOE'S ENDS TEMPLE WIN STREAK

By Associated Press

In Philadelphia, Na'im Crenshaw hit two free throws with 16.7 seconds remaining, and St. Joseph's ended No. 5 Temple's 13-game winning streak, shocking its big Five rival 62-59 on Tuesday night. Temple (22-5 overall, 13-2 Atlantic 10) trailed 60-59 when Mark Karcher missed a jumper with 40 seconds left, and the Owls were forced to foul Crenshaw. Karcher also missed a three-pointer from the left corner as time ran out.

Karcher scored 16 points and Lynn Greer 11 points for Temple. Marvin O'Connor scored 20 points, Crenshaw had 10 and Andre Howard 10 for St. Joseph's (12-14, 7-8 Atlantic 10), which had lost four in a row and hadn't beaten Temple since 1995. St. Joseph's hadn't beaten such a highly ranked team since downing No. 2 DePaul in 1984.

OTHER TOP 25 MEN'S NCAA SCORES

No 14 Indiana 79	No. 20 Purdue 65
No.18 St. John's 66	Seton Hall 60
No.22 Kentucky 73	Miss. St. 61

BRUINS HURT PLAYOFF PROSPECTS

By Associated Press

The Boston Bruins lost to the Ottawa Senators 5-3 on Tuesday night. The 12th place Bruins trail the New York Rangers by five points in the race for the Eastern Conference's final playoff spot.

Other NHL scores:

Toronto 4	Atlanta 0
New Jersey 2	Nashville 1

CONGRATULATIONS!

Enlisted Aviation

Warfare Specialist

HM3 (SW/AW) CHRISTOPHER L. PROFILIO



Electronics Technician Master Chief Mike Kunz fast ropes with the EOD yesterday in the hangar bay. (Photo by PH3 Karri Williams.)